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NORTH CAROLINA

Farm Report

Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



No. 153

RALEIGH, N. C.

FEBRUARY 17, 1954

MILK OUTPUT RECORD HIGH

Production of milk on North Carolina farms totaled 134 million pounds during January, the highest production of record for the month. The January output is 8 percent more than the 124 million pounds produced during the same period a year ago and 12 percent above the January 1952 figure of 120.

The record production is due both to an increase in milk cow numbers and output per cow. The number of milk cows on farms during January is currently es-

(Continued on Page 4)

CABBAGE INTENTIONS DOWN SLIGHTLY

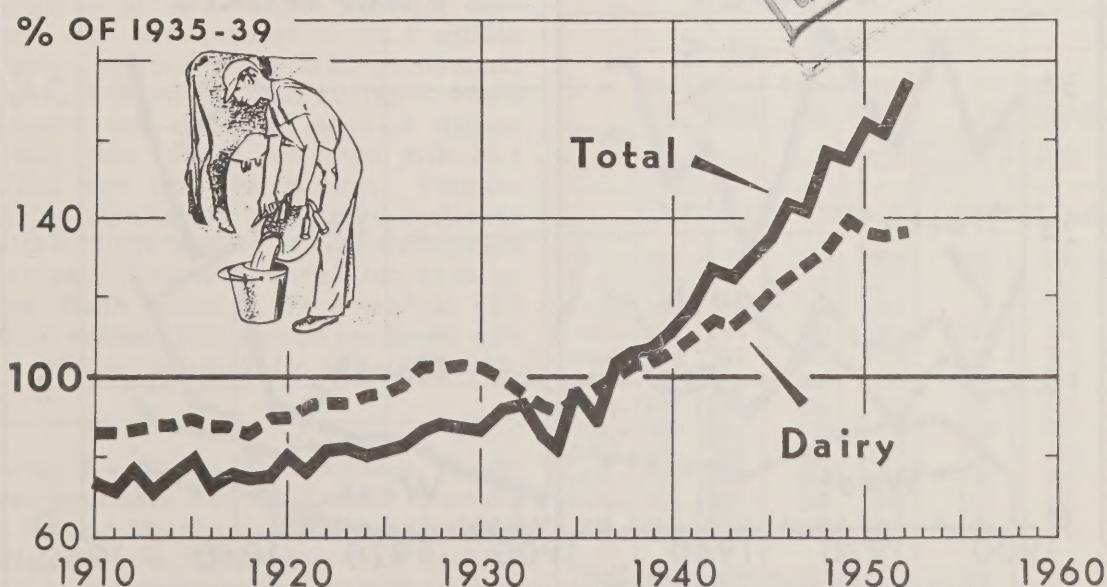
North Carolina late spring cabbage growers have indicated their intentions to plant 2,100 acres this year. If such a crop is planted, the spring cabbage acreage will be almost 5 percent less than the 2,200 acres harvested in 1953 and about 2 percent less than the 1949-52 average of 2,150 acres.

Wet soil and cold weather have delayed setting in most commercial cabbage areas of the State. Some growers report that

(Continued on Page 4)

Per Man Hour

DAIRY OUTPUT AND TOTAL FARM OUTPUT COMPARED



FARM EMPLOYMENT SEASONALLY LOW

A total of 5,951,000 people were employed on farms in the United States during the week of January 24-30. This is a little over 400,000 less than a month ago and about 170,000 less than a year earlier. Total employment consisted of 5,032,000 farm operators and unpaid members of their families and 919,000 hired workers. Both types of workers were 3 percent fewer than a year earlier and down seasonally from a month earlier.

As usual at this time of the year, feeding and caring for livestock were the important jobs in most parts of the country. Some farmers were working at various maintenance and repair jobs on buildings, machinery and fences. Preparing crops for marketing was another job which was widely scattered over the country. Weather during the survey week was generally mild and dry, which tended to simplify most winter farm jobs.

Farmers were starting preparations for spring planting in the more southern areas. Plowing was in progress in southern Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi,

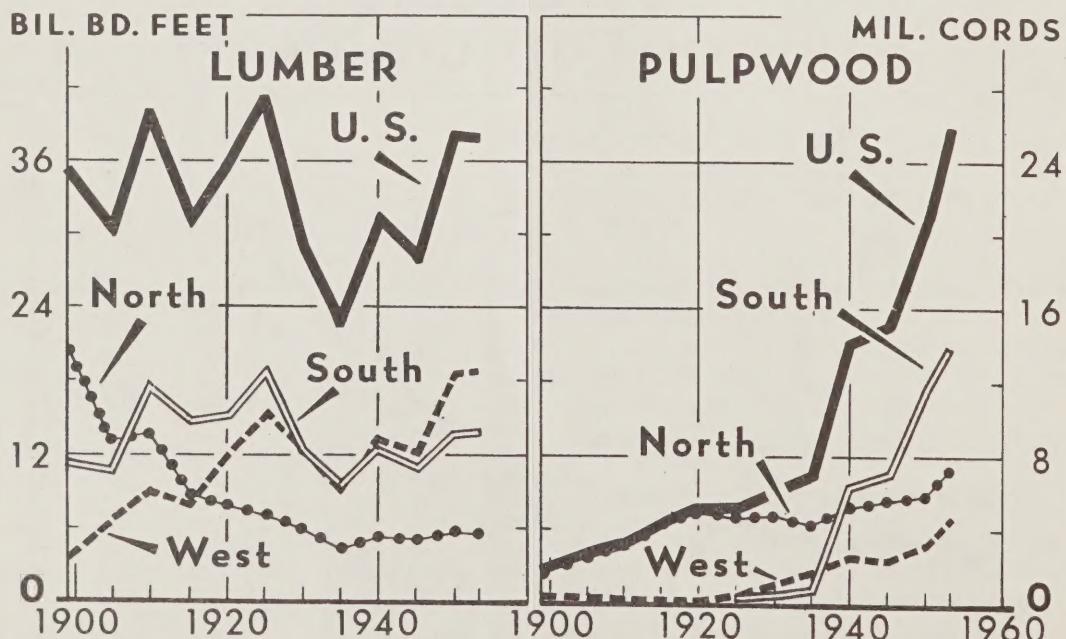
in the general crop areas of Florida, in northwestern parts of Texas, and in parts of Oklahoma and Kansas. Potatoes were being planted in the commercial areas of southern Alabama and cotton and corn were being planted in the Lower Valley of Texas. Tobacco plant beds were being prepared in southern areas while a few tobacco farmers in more northern areas were completing marketing the 1953 crop. Fruit growers in northern areas were pruning trees and vines when weather was favorable. Pruning was also a major job in California.

In the extreme southern areas, the usual routine of vegetable crop operations, which ranged from planting to harvest, was in progress. Citrus was also being harvested in volume. In California, cotton harvest had reached its final stages.

The number of persons employed on farms during the survey week in January was less than a year earlier in all regions except the New England, Middle

(Continued on page 5)

LUMBER and PULPWOOD PRODUCTION



DATA FOR LUMBER PRODUCTION FROM CENSUS REPORTS AND ESTIMATES OF FOREST SERVICE, USDA.

MERCHANTABLE POTATO STOCKS BELOW AVERAGE

Stocks of merchantable potatoes held by growers and local dealers on January 1, 1954 in or near producing areas are estimated at 120,210,000 bushels. These holdings are 5.6 percent smaller than the average January 1 stocks for 1943-52 but are 5.9 percent -- 6.7 million bushels -- larger than on the same date last year.

Compared with holdings on January 1, 1953, stocks are up 3.7 million bushels in the eastern late States, 2.0 million in the central late States and 0.8 million bushels in the western late States. In the intermediate States, holdings are 230,000 bushels larger than on January 1, 1953.

In the 36 late and intermediate States, production in 1953 -- at 308.2 million bushels -- was 4 percent larger than the 296.6 million bushels produced in 1952. Sales of 1953-crop potatoes in these States for all purposes are expected to total 256.1 million bushels -- 8.3 percent of production. For the 1952 crop, sales are estimated at 248.9 million bushels or 84 percent of the total crop.

For the 1953 crop in the late and intermediate States, quantities fed to livestock on farms where grown and loss through shrinkage and waste are expected to run substantially larger than for the 1952 crop, accounting for 8.2 percent of production or 25.4 million bushels, compared with 6.8 percent -- 20.2 million bushels -- from the 1952 production. Quantities used for food on farms where produced are estimated at 13.9 million bushels this season compared with 15.4 million from last year's crop. This decline is chiefly the result of a continued decline in the number of farms producing potatoes. Potatoes saved for seed on farms where produced are placed at 12.7 million bushels this season compared with 12.3 million bushels for the 1952 crop.

For the Nation, the tonnage of oil-seeds available from 1953 crops is among the largest of record. The total of 16.4 million tons is 1.5 percent less than the 1952 record tonnage, but a fifth above average. The soybean crop makes up nearly half of the total.

RECORD MILK PRODUCTION

Production During 1953 Exceeds

Previous High By About Six Percent

Estimated milk production in North Carolina during 1953 totaled 1.7 billion pounds, the highest annual output of record. Production during the year exceeded the previous high set in 1952 by about 6 percent or 100 million pounds, and was over 14 percent greater than the 1942-51 average production. The North Carolina Crop Reporting Service estimates the average production per cow milked during the year at 4,490 pounds which was also the highest of record.

Milk production on United States farms in 1953 totaled 121 billion pounds, exceeding that in any previous year, and 6 billion pounds greater than in 1952, according to estimates just released by the Crop Reporting Board. Output was especially heavy during the early and late months of the year, but was only about average during the summer months. Milk production per cow in 1953 pushed to a new high record of 5,447 pounds, nearly one fifth higher than a decade earlier.

MONTHLY AND ANNUAL MILK PRODUCTION ON FARMS, N. C. 1942-51 AVERAGE, 1952 AND 1953

| Month | North Carolina | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------|-------|
| | Milk Cows on Farms | | Production per Cow | | Total Production | | |
| | 1952 | 1953 | 1952 | 1953 | Average 1942-51 | 1952 | 1953 |
| <i>Thousands</i> | | | | | | <i>Pounds</i> | |
| Jan.. | 360 | 377 | 332 | 330 | 108 | 120 | 124 |
| Feb.. | 361 | 378 | 318 | 310 | 101 | 115 | 117 |
| Mar.. | 362 | 379 | 338 | 342 | 115 | 122 | 130 |
| Apr.. | 363 | 380 | 374 | 380 | 127 | 136 | 144 |
| May.. | 364 | 381 | 412 | 418 | 141 | 150 | 159 |
| June.. | 365 | 382 | 398 | 412 | 140 | 145 | 157 |
| July.. | 366 | 383 | 399 | 428 | 146 | 146 | 164 |
| Aug.. | 368 | 384 | 410 | 422 | 144 | 151 | 162 |
| Sept.. | 370 | 385 | 388 | 386 | 131 | 144 | 149 |
| Oct.. | 372 | 386 | 365 | 366 | 124 | 136 | 141 |
| Nov.. | 374 | 387 | 335 | 344 | 112 | 125 | 133 |
| Dec.. | 376 | 388 | 332 | 348 | 110 | 125 | 135 |
| Total | 367* | 382* | 4,400 | 4,490 | 1,498 | 1,615 | 1,715 |

* Average Number on farms during year--heifers not freshened excluded.

CABBAGE INTENTIONS (Continued)

plants set as of February 1 were in only fair condition but should recover if favorable weather prevails.

In the late spring group of States, preliminary cabbage acreage is placed at 10,750 acres, 4 percent above 1953 but 4 percent less than average. Planting of spring cabbage is continuing in Virginia where little change in acreage is expected; whereas, growers in Tennessee are expected to plant more cabbage this year. In Kentucky, cabbage seedlings are being transplanted to boxes with field setting scheduled for March.

PROSPECTIVE LATE SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE

| State | Acreage | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | 4-Year Average 1949-52 | 1953 | Indicated 1954 |
| | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Acres</u> |
| N. C..... | 2,150 | 2,200 | 2,100 |
| Va..... | 2,300 | 2,100 | 2,100 |
| Tenn..... | 3,490 | 2,800 | 3,400 |
| Ky..... | 420 | 300 | 250 |
| Md..... | 1,230 | 1,550 | 1,500 |
| Mo..... | 1,020 | 900 | 900 |
| Ohio, S.E.. | 590 | 500 | 500 |
| Total Late Spring.... | 11,200 | 10,350 | 10,750 |

N. C. EGG PRODUCTION

Total egg production in North Carolina during the month of January 1954 is estimated at 109 million eggs. This amount is 2.7 percent below the production of January 1953 - while the 8,944,000 average number of layers on hand during January 1954 is 3.4 percent below the 9,257,000 on hand during January 1953. The average rate of lay for all hens during the month was slightly higher than for January a year earlier.

The January production is seasonally higher by 16 percent than the 94 million eggs produced during December.

MILK PRODUCTION (Continued)

timated at 390,000 with a monthly per cow output averaging 134 pounds.

Total production of milk on United States farms in January 1954 is estimated at 9,172 million pounds -- about 5 percent higher than a year ago. This was the first time in history that January production reached 9 billion pounds. Production conditions were unusually favorable during the month. Temperatures were above normal over much of the country and most areas have been relatively free from prolonged severe storms. Grain and concentrate feeding continued at record heavy rates, with supplies of grains and roughages adequate in most areas. Total January output was more than 10 percent above average for the month. Relative to population, milk production averaged 1.84 pounds per capita per day, the highest for January since 1947, but lower than in 15 of the 17 earlier years for which records are available.

COMMERCIAL BROILER PRODUCTION

Commercial broiler production in 16 important States covered by weekly chick placement reports amounted to 735,318,000 birds in 1953 -- 9 percent more than in 1952. In certain States, mainly Virginia and Arkansas, the weekly placement reports cover only the most important producing areas.

The 16 States having weekly placement reports produce about three-fourths of the Nation's broilers. Georgia led all States with about 122 million birds followed by Arkansas with 74 million, Delaware with 68 million and Texas with 65 million broilers.

The average price received for the 1953 production was 26.8 cents per pound live weight, compared with 28.6 cents per pound in 1952. Gross income from sales was \$595,269,000 -- 2 percent more than in 1952. The 16 States produced about 2,224 million pounds live weight of commercial broilers -- about 9 percent more than in 1952.

WEATHER SUMMARY

January brought to parts of North Carolina the coldest weather and the most snow in some six years, but despite this, temperatures for the State as a whole averaged near seasonable or above for the month. Rainfall averaged from two to five inches above that usually expected over the greater part of the State, although amounts were near normal in the extreme northwestern and southeastern counties. The sun shone on most locations about half of the daylight hours and about 60% of the time on the southeast, just about that usually expected in January.

At one time or another during the month snow fell on practically all of the counties. In the mountains there was snowfall on six days, and almost three inches fell on some points on the 11th. In the Piedmont there was snowfall at many locations on 5 days; amounts ranging from two to eight inches accumulated on the 22d to 24th days. No snow fell on the outer banks at Hatteras, but there was some light snow which melted as it fell as far south as Wilmington on the 11th.

In some of the central and western counties it was the wettest month in several years. The 8.4 inches of precipitation which fell on the capital city was over 5 inches above normal for the month and made it the rainiest January of record. The most precipitation fell on the extreme southwestern counties, with amounts rang-

JANUARY BROILER PLACEMENTS UP

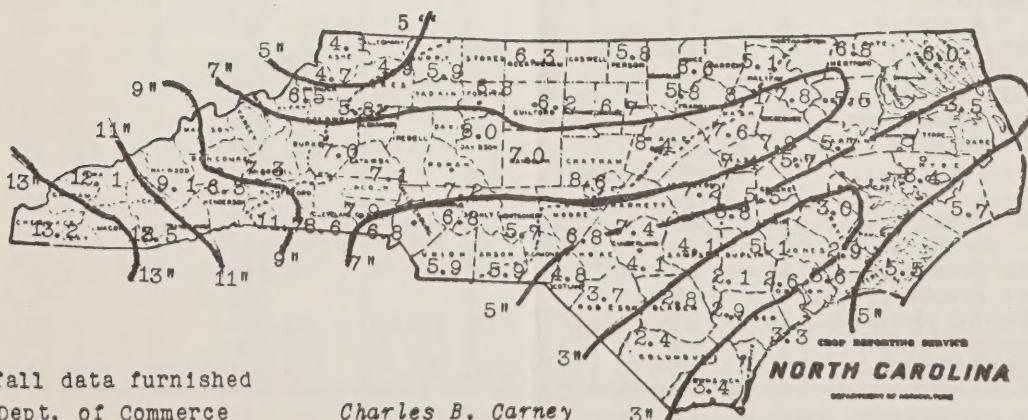
January placements of commercial broiler chicks in Central and Western Areas of North Carolina were 5 percent above December and 14 percent greater than placements during January 1953.

There were 4,907,000 broiler chicks placed with growers in these two areas during January 1954, compared with 4,663,000 in December and 4,294,000 in January a year ago.

ing from 11 to 13 inches; the least, on the southeastern counties, with totals ranging from 2 to 3 inches.

Temperatures averaged about 1 degree above normal in the mountains and Western Piedmont to near normal elsewhere. Highest temperature for the month was 78, at Wilmington on the 21st; this established a new record for the date. Lowest reported was 5 below zero at Mt. Mitchell on the 13th. There were two cold spells during the month. On the 13th and 14th temperatures during the warmest part of the day barely reached the freezing mark in most sections, following early morning readings which had ranged from 8 above at Asheville to 12 - 15 above in the Piedmont to 20 - 25 along the lower coast. On the 23d, highest temperatures in the Piedmont ranged from 28 - 30 in the north to the middle 30's in the south.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL, JANUARY 1954



FARM EMPLOYMENT (Continued)

Atlantic, and East North Central. There were a few more workers in the New England and East North Central States and the same number in the Middle Atlantic States. The largest decrease from a year ago was in the West South Central States where dry soils in northwestern Texas and wet soils in eastern Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana slowed spring planting preparations.

National production in 1953 of the 11 vegetables for commercial canning, freezing and other processing, exclusive of dehydration, is 6.55 million tons, 2 percent less than 1952 but 16 percent more than the 1942-51 average.

Nearly 8.2 million tons of the major deciduous fruits were produced in the U. S. in 1953, or 5 percent less than in 1952 and 9 percent below average.

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK ON FARMS JANUARY 1, BY CLASSES

| Class of Livestock | NORTH CAROLINA | | UNITED STATES | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| | 1953 Revised | 1954 Preliminary | 1953 Revised | 1954 Preliminary |
| <i>Thousand Head</i> | | | | |
| HORSES - Total..... | 71 | 64 | 3,798 | 3,432 |
| 2 years plus..... | 69 | 62 | 3,588 | 3,240 |
| 1-2 years..... | 1 | 1 | 109 | 100 |
| Under 1 year..... | 1 | 1 | 101 | 92 |
| MULES - Total..... | 219 | 204 | 1,753 | 1,603 |
| 2 years plus..... | 217 | 202 | 1,726 | 1,578 |
| 1-2 years..... | 1 | 1 | 16 | 15 |
| Under 1 year..... | 1 | 1 | 11 | 10 |
| CATTLE - Total..... | 915 | 961 | 93,637 | 94,677 |
| Milk Stock: | | | | |
| Cows 2 years plus..... | 391 | 411 | 24,094 | 24,735 |
| Heifers 1-2 years..... | 95 | 93 | 5,974 | 6,032 |
| Heifer Calves..... | 98 | 102 | 6,676 | 6,820 |
| Other Cattle: | | | | |
| Cows 2 years plus..... | 118 | 140 | 22,490 | 23,755 |
| Heifers 1-2 years..... | 59 | 71 | 6,350 | 6,120 |
| Calves..... | 102 | 86 | 17,116 | 17,237 |
| Steers 1 year plus..... | 33 | 37 | 9,039 | 8,087 |
| Bulls 1 year plus..... | 19 | 21 | 1,898 | 1,891 |
| SHEEP - Total..... | 48 | 49 | 31,861 | 30,902 |
| On Feed..... | - | - | 4,161 | 3,997 |
| Stock Sheep..... | 48 | 49 | 27,700 | 26,905 |
| Ewe Lambs..... | 8 | 9 | 3,987 | 3,592 |
| Wethers & Ram Lambs..... | 1 | 1 | 842 | 830 |
| Ewes 1 year plus..... | 35 | 35 | 21,738 | 21,386 |
| Ram 1 year plus..... | 3 | 3 | 871 | 845 |
| Wethers 1 year plus..... | 1 | 1 | 262 | 252 |
| HOGS - Total..... | 1,203 | 1,035 | 54,294 | 48,179 |
| Under 6 months..... | 686 | 590 | 30,612 | 28,043 |
| Sows & Gilts 6 mos. plus | 164 | 166 | 8,263 | 8,731 |
| Others 6 months plus..... | 353 | 279 | 15,419 | 11,405 |
| CHICKENS - Total * | 12,348 | 12,404 | 429,731 | 439,271 |
| Hens..... | 5,052 | 4,496 | 149,528 | 132,191 |
| Pullets..... | 5,746 | 6,436 | 254,432 | 281,462 |
| Other Chickens * | 1,550 | 1,472 | 25,771 | 25,618 |
| TURKEYS - Total ** | 60 | 67 | 5,305 | 5,323 |
| All Heavy Breeds..... | 55 | 60 | 4,617 | 4,431 |
| All Light Breeds..... | 5 | 7 | 688 | 892 |
| Heavy Breeder Hens..... | 31 | 25 | 2,378 | 2,681 |
| Light Breeder Hens..... | 4 | 3 | 486 | 679 |
| TOTAL BREEDER HENS..... | 35 | 38 | 3,364 | 3,360 |

* Does not include commercial broilers.

** Does not include turkey fryers.

CATTLE NUMBERS ALL TIME HIGH

All cattle on farms in North Carolina, at 961,000, reached a new high as of January 1, 1954, according to a report of the North Carolina Crop Reporting Service. There were 915,000 cattle on farms in the State a year earlier while the average January 1 inventory for the period from 1943-52 was 709,000. Mules on farms at 204,000 and horses at 64,000 on January 1 this year continued to follow the downward trend which has been in effect since the end of World War II. Hogs on farms on January 1, at 1,035,000, dropped noticeably from the 1,203,000 a year ago. There were 49,000 sheep on farms -- 1,000 more than January 1, 1953. All chickens at 12,404,000 were slightly above the 12,348,000 a year earlier, while turkeys at 67,000 compare with 60,000 on January 1, 1953.

For the Nation, the number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches January

1, 1954 was estimated at 94,677,000 -- a new all-time record. Hogs on United States farms were estimated at 48,179,000 head, the smallest number since 1938. Stock sheep numbers on farms and ranches, estimated at 26,905,000 head, were 3 percent below a year earlier and 20 percent below the 1943-52 average. Horses on farms January 1, 1954 are estimated at 3,432,000 head, a decrease of 10 percent from a year ago. During 1953 mule numbers declined about 9 percent to an estimated 1,603,000 head. Chickens on farms (excluding commercial broilers) totaled 439,271,000 -- 2 percent more than a year ago but 10 percent less than the 1943-52 average. Farm holdings of turkeys (excluding turkey fryers) on January 1, 1954 numbered 5,323,000, about the same as a year ago but 10 percent below the average.

NUMBER, VALUE PER HEAD, AND TOTAL VALUE OF LIVESTOCK ON FARMS JAN. 1

| Class of Livestock | North Carolina | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|---------|----------------|--------|-------------|-----------|
| | Number on Farms Jan. 1 | | | Value Per Head | | Total Value | |
| | Average 1943-52 | 1953 | 1954 | 1953 | 1954 | 1953 | 1954 |
| <i>Thousand Head</i> | | | | | | | |
| Horses & Colts..... | 92 | 71 | 64 | 74.00 | 69.00 | 5,254 | 4,416 |
| Mules & Colts..... | 273 | 219 | 204 | 125.00 | 106.00 | 27,375 | 21,624 |
| All Cattle & Calves.. | 709 | 915 | 961 | 105.00 | 71.00 | 96,075 | 68,231 |
| Cows & Heifers 2 yrs. plus for Milk..... | 378 | 391 | 411 | 140.00 | 94.00 | 54,740 | 38,634 |
| All Sheep & Lambs.... | 43 | 48 | 49 | 21.20 | 17.20 | 1,018 | 843 |
| Hogs & Pigs..... | 1,230 | 1,203 | 1,035 | 22.20 | 29.20 | 26,707 | 30,222 |
| Chickens, all..... | 12,930 | 12,348 | 12,404 | 1.30 | 1.25 | 16,052 | 15,505 |
| Turkeys..... | 47 | 60 | 67 | 6.40 | 6.40 | 384 | 429 |
| <i>Dollars</i> | | | | | | | |
| <i>Thousand Dollars</i> | | | | | | | |
| United States | | | | | | | |
| Horses & Colts..... | 7,060 | 3,798 | 3,432 | 47.20 | 48.80 | 179,395 | 167,568 |
| Mules & Colts..... | 2,730 | 1,753 | 1,603 | 65.30 | 61.40 | 114,426 | 98,402 |
| All Cattle & Calves.. | 81,673 | 93,637 | 94,677 | 128.00 | 92.40 | 11,998,139 | 8,746,058 |
| Cows & Heifers 2 yrs. plus for milk..... | 25,440 | 24,094 | 24,735 | 202.00 | 146.00 | 4,862,803 | 3,614,427 |
| All Sheep & Lambs.... | 39,014 | 31,361 | 30,902 | - | - | 507,320 | 431,963 |
| Stock Sheep & Lambs.. | 33,732 | 27,700 | 26,905 | 15.80 | 13.90 | 437,002 | 372,958 |
| Hogs & Pigs..... | 63,124 | 54,294 | 48,179 | 26.00 | 36.60 | 1,409,988 | 1,763,714 |
| Chickens..... | 486,084 | 429,731 | 439,271 | 1.41 | 1.43 | 606,935 | 629,024 |
| Turkeys..... | 5,932 | 5,305 | 5,323 | 6.16 | 6.31 | 32,687 | 33,594 |

FARM REPORT

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Agricultural Marketing Service

Agricultural Estimates Division

S. R. Newell, Director

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Average Prices Paid By Farmers For Specified Food Items

| ITEMS | UNIT | NORTH CAROLINA | | | UNITED STATES | | |
|------------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | Sept. 15 1953 | Dec. 15 1953 | Dec. 15 1952 | Sept. 15 1953 | Dec. 15 1953 | Dec. 15 1952 |
| <u>Cents</u> | | | | | | | |
| Sugar..... | Per 10 Lbs. | 105.0 | 105.0 | 105.0 | 107.0 | 106.0 | 107.0 |
| Flour..... | Per 25 Lbs. | 200.0 | 200.0 | 205.0 | 210.0 | 212.0 | 213.0 |
| Bread, White..... | Per Lb. | 17.6 | - | - | 16.9 | - | - |
| Corn Meal..... | Per Lb. | 7.2 | 6.7 | 7.0 | 8.13 | 7.46 | 7.88 |
| Rolled oats, Packaged | Per Lb. | 16.0 | - | - | 14.0 | - | - |
| Rice..... | Per Lb. | - | 20.1 | 20.5 | - | 19.2 | 18.9 |
| Bacon..... | Per Lb. | 80.0 | 70.0 | 57.0 | 79.3 | 70.7 | 56.8 |
| Round Steak..... | Per Lb. | 78.0 | 74.0 | 89.0 | 75.8 | 72.8 | 88.8 |
| Lard..... | Per Lb. | 26.0 | 25.0 | 19.2 | 26.5 | 25.1 | 17.3 |
| Butter..... | Per Lb. | 83.0 | 83.0 | 84.0 | 78.3 | 79.4 | 80.8 |
| Cheese, American..... | Per Lb. | 61.0 | - | - | 60.9 | - | - |
| Coffee..... | Per Lb. | 90.0 | 91.0 | 86.0 | 92.4 | 93.0 | 87.7 |
| Tea, Orange Pekoe..... | Per Lb. | - | 135.0 | 135.0 | - | 136.0 | 134.0 |
| Oranges, 216's..... | Per Doz. | 43.0 | 32.0 | 31.0 | 45.4 | 43.7 | 44.7 |
| Bananas..... | Per Lb. | 14.9 | - | - | 17.4 | - | - |
| Apples, fresh..... | Per Lb. | 11.8 | 13.5 | 11.2 | 13.8 | 14.6 | 14.0 |